

Constitution
and
Regulations
of the
People's United Party



Fifty years ago, on 29th September 1950, the first constitution of the People's United Party was introduced, marking the birth of the P.U.P. and its peaceful, constructive Belizean revolution; a revolution that climaxed with the attainment of independence on September 21st, 1981.

It was that constitution that laid the foundation for the P.U.P. to grow in unity and strength, to reach across the length and breadth of Belize, and so become the most successful political party, to date, in the history of our country.

Enshrined in that Constitution were the fundamental principles, aims and objectives of the Party. The P.U.P. sees every Belizean as an integral part of the nation of Belize and believes that every Belizean is entitled to the fullest enjoyment of human rights, to participate fully in the development of Belize and to enjoy a fair share of the fruits of the nation's development. Only by putting our people at the forefront of our development strategies and programs will we empower them to create their own destinies.

The world around us has evolved dramatically since 1950. But the P.U.P.'s faith in these principles has remained constant throughout the years. This is why the legacy of the peaceful, constructive Belizean revolution is such a formidable one.

The P.U.P., with the support of the people, brought Belize to nationhood through historic milestones like universal adult suffrage, self-government and political independence. It transformed the social and economic landscape by investing heavily in education and health, developing the major agricultural industries, initiating land reform, expanding rural communities' access to electricity and water, creating new residential communities and a new capital city, Belmopan.

In 1975, at a time of the 25th anniversary of the Party, the Constitution was revised in order to expand the democratic base of the Party. This Constitution, except for some minor amendments, has remained in force over the years, informing and guiding the policies and strategies of the P.U.P. Today, on the 50th anniversary of the P.U.P., we introduce some more amendments designed to provide the party with dynamism and resilience it needs to be responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people in this challenging new century.

I commend this revised edition of our Party's Constitution to all P.U.P. members and all Belizeans. It is a new day and a new era. But the motto of the P.U.P. shall remain: Serve the People. In unity, with honesty and God's help we shall continue this revolution.

March 30th 2010

John Briceno
Party Leader

The Belizean Prayer

Almighty and Eternal God, who through Jesus Christ has revealed Your glory to all nations, please protect and preserve Belize, our beloved country.

God of might, wisdom and justice, please assist our Belizean government and people with Your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude.

Let the light of Your divine wisdom direct their plans and endeavours so that with Your help we may attain our just objectives. With Your guidance, may all our endeavors tend to peace, social justice, liberty, national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety and useful knowledge.

We pray, O God of Mercy, for all of us that we may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Your most holy law, that we may be preserved in union and in that peace which the world itself cannot give. And, after enjoying the blessings of this life, please admit us, dear Lord, to that eternal reward that You have prepared for those who love You. Amen.

The National Anthem

Land Of The Free

**O, Land of the Free by the Carib Sea,
Our manhood we pledge to thy liberty!
No tyrants here linger, despots must flee
This tranquil haven of democracy
The blood of our sires which hallows the sod,
Brought freedom from slavery oppression's rod,
By the might of truth and the grace of God.
No longer shall we be hewers of wood.**

*Arise! Ye sons of the Baymen's clan,
Put on your armour, clear the land!
Drive back the tyrants, let despots flee---
Land of the free by the Carib Sea!*

**Nature has blessed thee with wealth untold,
O'er mountains and valleys where prairies roll;
Our fathers, the Baymen, valiant and bold
Drove back the invader; this heritage hold
From proud Rio Hondo to old Sarstoon,
Through coral isle, over blue lagoon;
Keep watch with the angels, the stars and moon;
For freedom comes to-morrow's noon.**

Chorus.

The People's United Party

Political Creed

I am a member of the People's United Party, because I believe:

1. That all human beings are equal regardless of race, colour, creed or gender;
2. That every Belizean has right to freedom of expression, of movement, of religious belief and of association within the context of the law;
3. That every Belizean has the right to the protection of life and property according to law;
4. That the best form of government for Belize is based on democratic principles that guarantee the right to vote in free and fair elections and where governments are accountable to the people;
5. That every Belizean is an integral part of the nation and has a right and a duty to participate in the peaceful, constructive, Belizean revolution which has brought us freedom and the **INDEPENDENT BELIZE** whose natural resources and environment we must protect, enhance and hold in trust for future generations;
6. That every Belizean has a right to receive a just return for their labour on the basis of equal pay for work of equal value with the opportunity for all to work and prosper in a free, just and secure society;
7. That every Belizean has a right to an adequate and ever improving standard of living and to participate in a dynamic economy that serves the public interest, and in which the enterprise of the market is joined with the forces of partnership and cooperation to produce the wealth of the nation and quality services;
8. That the ownership and control of our national resources and treasures must be so managed in order to secure the maximum benefit for the Belizean people;
9. That it is the sacred duty and responsibility of government to intervene actively in the economic life of the nation where necessary in order to secure a better life for all Belizeans; and
10. That the new nation of Belize has a right to exist, with territorial integrity, as a free, sovereign and independent nation of Central America in the Caribbean Basin.

Long Live The People's United Party

Article 1: Name

The name of the Organization shall be **the People's United Party (P.U.P.)**

Article 2: Aims and Objects

The P.U.P. is a political organization pledged to create a NEW BELIZE through the peaceful, constructive, Belizean revolution, which will bring to all Belizeans a better life and just share of the national wealth. The principal aims and objects of the P.U.P. are:

1. To consolidate and preserve national unity based on respect for equality of all citizens regardless of race, colour, gender, creed or status with due regard for all regions of Belize.
2. To defend and maintain the political independence of Belize, its territorial integrity and freedom for its people.
3. To participate in elections at all levels with a view to forming national, municipal, village and community governments.
4. To achieve the highest possible measure of economic independence by pursuing a policy of self-reliance and stimulating higher economic productivity through planned development of the nation's resources for the benefit of all the people.
5. To ensure that Belize is governed by a democratic government, which entails economic democracy as well as political democracy.
6. To ensure that every Belizean has the right to freedom of expression, of movement, of religious belief and association, and the right to protection of life and property according to law and social justice.
7. To ensure that every Belizean receives a just return for their labour based on equal pay for work of equal value, a fair share of national wealth, and a continuously improving quality of life.
8. To ensure our national resources are owned, controlled and managed so that they are utilized in such a way as to directly benefit the people.
9. To work ceaselessly for world peace and security through regional cooperation and through the United Nations.

Article 3: Colours and Motto

1. The colour of the P.U.P shall be **BLUE** and **WHITE**.
2. The Motto of the People's United Party shall be **SERVE THE PEOPLE**.

Article 4: Membership

Membership shall be of two kinds: individual and affiliate.

Section 1: Individual Membership: Adult

1. Eligibility.

Citizens of Belize, including those residing abroad, and persons who have resided in Belize for at least three years, are eligible for adult membership in the P.U.P. if they:

- a) have attained the age of 18 years;
- b) accept the creed, aims, objects, principles and policies of the P.U.P., and
- c) are not members of any other political party or of any organizations whose principles or policies are contrary to or inconsistent with those of the P.U.P.

2. Procedure.

- a) Application for membership must be made on the official form of application to the Secretary of the Constituency Branch in which the applicant resides.
- b) Each such application must be accompanied by a sum equal to the dues for the current calendar year.
- c) Each application must be scrutinized by the Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch.

3. Admission.

On Admission each member shall:

- a) Receive an adult membership card signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Constituency Branch Executive committee and stamped with the name of the constituency
- b) Become liable to pay dues in the sum set out in the Regulations concerning Membership.

Section 2: Individual Membership: Youth

1. Eligibility.

Any person who on attaining the age of 18 years would be eligible for adult membership of the P.U.P. is eligible for youth membership if the person is less than 18 years of age.

2. Procedure.

- a) Application for membership must be made on the official form of the application to the Secretary of the Constituency Branch in which the application resides.
- b) The official application form shall be the same as that for application to adult membership of the P.U.P.
- c) Each application must be scrutinized by the Executive Committee of the constituency Branch.

3. Admission. On admission such member shall:

- a) receive a youth membership card signed by the Chairman and Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch and stamped with the name of the constituency; and
- b) be assigned to a branch of the Belize Youth Movement (B.Y.M.) operating in the area in which the youth resides subject to the provisions of Article 12 of the Constitution.

4. Transfer.

The membership of a youth member of the P.U.P. may, on attaining the age of 18 years, be transferred to the Constituency Branch in which the member resides and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing adult members of the P.U.P.

Section 3: Affiliate Membership

1. The National Council shall have the right, subject always to the National Convention, to accept or reject applications for affiliation with the P.U.P. from any organization.
2. The terms of affiliation shall be prescribed by the National Council.

Section 4: Financial Membership

A member who is more than three months in arrears of Party dues shall not be considered a financial member.

Article 5: Units.

1. The governing units of the P.U.P. in hierarchical order shall be as follows:
 1. The National Convention;
 2. The National Council;
 3. The National Executive;
 4. The Four Regional Caucuses;
 5. The Constituency Branches.
2. The following shall be standing units of the P.U.P.:
 1. The Belize Youth Movement;
 2. The Marshalls-Community Service Corps;
 3. The National Campaign Committee;
 4. The Order of Distinguished Service;
 5. The Public Relations Committee;
 6. The United Women's Group.

Article 6: The Constituency Branch

1. There shall be a Constituency Branch within each area of an electoral division for election to the House of Representatives. Party Committees shall be established in villages in accordance with sub-section 9(b) hereof.
2. Each constituency shall be governed by a Constituency Executive committee elected biennially at a Constituency Convention, which shall take place in accordance with the Regulations Governing Conventions.
3. (1) Each Constituency Branch shall at its Biennial Convention held the end of September in each year elect nine persons to constitute the Constituency Executive Committee.

- (2). All proceedings at a Constituency Convention shall be supervised by the Secretary-General of the P.U.P. or by the Chairman of the P.U.P. or a person nominated by him in writing: Provided that if such supervisor is unavoidably absent, the Convention may be held in the supervisor's absence, but if valid grounds for objections to any procedures adopted at the Convention are established to the satisfaction of the National Executive, the proceedings at that Convention shall be declared void.
- (3). At every Constituency Convention the Executive Committee must give a comprehensive report of the P.U.P.'s activities since the last Convention, including in particular a statement of its financial transactions.
4. (1) Each Constituency Executive Committee shall in each year elect by secret ballot such officers as to it shall seem appropriate.
- (2) Also entitled to attend meetings of a Constituency Executive Committee as non-voting members are the Chairpersons of each Unit of the P.U.P. organized within the constituency and any person elected to represent the constituency at any General Elections as well as a representative of a City Council or Town Council in cases in which the constituency falls within the boundaries of a city or town.
- (3) Any person who holds office in a Constituency Executive Committee shall upon being elected as a member of the National Assembly vacate such office but shall remain a member of the Committee, PROVIDED that if the person nominated to represent the Constituency in the last General Elections is not an elected member of the Constituency Executive Committee that person shall be an honorary member with right to attend and speak but without a right to vote at the meetings of the Committee.
5. The Constituency Executive Committee shall meet at last once every three months, and fifty percent of the Committee plus one shall constitute a quorum.
6. The Secretary of each Constituency Committee shall forward to the Secretary-General of the P.U.P. a yearly report on the constituency which shall contain:
- a. a return of its members and their financial standing;
 - b. statement of its financial position; and
 - c. a report of its activities.
7. Each Constituency Executive Committee shall be directly responsible to the National Executive for carrying out the principles, policies and programmes of the P.U.P. in its respective division.

8. Each Constituency Executive Committee shall have the right to propose persons for election in a Convention as officers of the P.U.P., and also to propose persons for election in a Convention as the P.U.P.'s candidates in municipal or national elections.
9. The duties of the Constituency Executive Committee shall be:
- (a) to carry on educational and organizational work including membership meetings and public meetings, in order to explain the P.U.P.'s policies and programmes and to secure the election of candidates of the P.U.P. to electoral office;
 - (b) in rural constituencies, to encourage the formation and supervise the functioning of Party committees in each village. Such committees shall have the power to recruit members for the P.U.P.
 - (c) recruit new members,
 - (d) to collect Party membership dues and donations,
 - (e) to hold functions whether of a social or cultural nature with the dual purpose of serving the people and of raising funds to carry out the P.U.P.'s work,
 - (f) to register voters for municipal and national elections and vigorously conduct all election campaigns, and
 - (g) to exercise a general supervision over other units of the P.U.P. in the Constituency.

Article 7: The National Convention

1. The National Convention shall be the supreme authority of the P.U.P.
2. The National Convention of the P.U.P. shall be held every two years on a day in the month of November and in a district of Belize decided by the National Council:

Provided that for special reasons the National Council may vary the date of the National Convention, and that a Special Convention may be called at any time at the request of a majority of the National Council or by a majority of constituency delegates.

3. (1) The National Convention or any Special Convention shall be comprised of:

- (a) the members of the National Council;

- (b) one constituency delegate for each one hundred votes cast in support of the P.U.P. candidate of that constituency in the General Elections immediately preceding the Convention;
 - (c) two delegates from each of the standing units of the P.U.P. other than the chairperson of these Units.
- (2) Each Constituency Branch and each unit of the P.U.P. empowered to name constituency delegates to the National Convention shall at the same time name alternate delegates, who shall attend as delegates if any delegate is unable to attend. Every delegate must be a financial member.
- (3) Party members may attend as observers.
- 4. Each delegate shall have one vote.
- 5. As the supreme authority of the P.U.P. the National Convention shall have the following rights, powers and duties:
 - a) To elect members of the National Executive;
 - b) To consider, formulate, declare or deal in any way with the principles, policies and programmes of the P.U.P.;
 - c) To consider the Annual Reports of the Chairman, Secretary-General and Treasurer of the P.U.P.;
 - d) To consider, amend or deal in any way with the Constitution of the P.U.P.;
 - e) To consider resolutions relative to national, international or party affairs;
 - f) To deal with any matter or transact any business submitted for its consideration by the National Council;
 - g) Generally to advance the objects of the P.U.P. and to consider and decide on any matter relating to the good conduct of the affairs of the P.U.P.

Article 8: The National Council

- 1. The National Council shall be the governing body of the Party and shall be responsible for its policy, organization, administration and discipline. It shall have the power generally to do all things as are necessary for the enforcement of the Constitution and the achievement of the aims and objects, principles, policies and programmes of the P.U.P., subject only to the supreme authority of the National Convention.
- 2. The National Council shall comprise:

- a) the National Executive;
 - b) the members of the Regional Caucuses;
 - c) Party members in the House of Representatives;
 - d) The Mayor or a councillor from each Town Council or City Council on which the Party is represented; and
 - e) Ten persons appointed annually at the discretion of the Party Leader.
3. The National Council shall meet at least once each quarter. Its quorum shall be twenty-five members.
 4. The Chairman shall preside over meetings of the National Council.
 5. The National Council shall summon and ensure the efficient management of the National Convention and also of any Special Convention.
 6. The National Council shall have the power to determine whether a vacancy exists in any office and fill such vacancy in the absence of specific provisions in the Constitution or in Regulations of the P.U.P.
 7. The National Council shall take such steps as may be necessary after consultation with the Party Leader and other appropriate persons or bodies to advise Party members on Public Bodies in matters pertaining to the discharge of their public responsibilities and particularly to the effective implementation of Party policy and decisions.
 8. The National Council is hereby specifically empowered and required to prepare and enforce a code of conduct for the leadership of the P.U.P. with appropriate safeguards and penalties to ensure the effectiveness of such code.
 9. (1) The National Council shall have power to appoint from time to time such committees, commissions, task forces and other bodies as and when it deems necessary and appropriate which shall be under its direct supervision and control and be directly responsible to it under the regulations that may be made for their control and function.
 - (2) Members of Committees may be drawn from the members of the National Council as well as from members of the P.U.P., but in every case the Chairman of a Committee shall be a member of the National Council.
 10. The National Council shall have the power to intervene when in its discretion this is necessary for the good conduct of the affairs of the P.U.P., through a special representative or other wise, in the affairs of any Constituency Branch, and give directions which shall be binding on that Branch.

Article 9: The National Executive

Section 1:

1. There shall be a National Executive of the National Council which shall be elected by the National Convention and which shall be responsible to the National Council.

2. The National Executive shall comprise:

- a) the Party Leader;
- b) two Deputy Party Leaders
- c) the Party Chairman;
- d) the Four Regional Caucus Chairmen;
- e) the P.U.P. Treasurer;
- f) the National Campaign Manager;
- g) the Deputy National Campaign Manager;
- h) the Chairman of the Marshalls-Community Service Corps;
- i) the President of the United Women's Group;
- j) the President of the Belize Youth Movement;
- k) the Chairman of the Public Relations Committee;
- l) the Leader Emeritus;
- m) the Legal Adviser;
- n) the Chairman, Order of Distinguished Service; and
- o) the Secretary General,

who shall not, however, be elected by the National Convention, but be appointed by the National Council.

Provided, however, that all times the National Executive shall be so constituted that each district shall have at least one representative on it.

3. In addition to any matter specifically assigned to it, the National Executive is charged with the organization and administration of the P.U.P. and shall have the power in an emergency to reverse or formulate policy as it may deem necessary, subject to ratification within one month by the National Council.

4. The National Executive shall meet at least once every month.

5. The quorum for a meeting of the National Executive shall be ten (10).

6. The National Executive shall have the right, subject to ratification by the National Council:

- a) to determine all questions of membership and to investigate matters of discipline at all levels of the P.U.P.; and
- b) to intervene when in its discretion this is necessary for the good conduct of the affairs of the P.U.P., through a special representative or otherwise, in the

affairs of any Constituency Branch and give directives which shall be binding on that branch.

7. The National Executive shall consider any written statement made to it by any Party member by which such member, with a view to strengthening the P.U.P., comments on weaknesses or defects in the P.U.P. structure, policies, programmes or leadership. If necessary and practicable the National Executive may afford such member an opportunity to be heard in person, and in any case shall, after considering and determining the matter, inform the member accordingly.

Section 2: Party Officers And Their Duties

1. The Party Leader shall assume general directions of the political work of the P.U.P. and shall assume general direction of all election campaigns. In consultation with the National Executive he shall make or cause to be made official statements on Party policy whenever necessary. He shall have the power to direct Party officers on the proper execution of their duties.
2. In absence of the Party Leader, a Deputy Party Leader, so designated by the Party Leader, shall act as Party Leader and assume the Party Leader's authority and responsibilities. In the absence of both Deputy Party Leaders, the Party Chairman shall assume the Party Leader's authority and responsibilities.
3. The Party Chairman shall be Chairman of the National Convention and such national political meetings of the P.U.P. as the Chairman is able to attend. The Chairman shall be responsible for the administration and management of the P.U.P.'s operations, and is hereby invested with the corresponding powers.
4. The Secretary-General shall not run for election or hold public office while holding office or within one year after ceasing to hold office. The Secretary-General shall be responsible, under direction of the Chairman, for the day-to-day administration of the Party's affairs, for the management of the P.U.P. Secretariat and the supervision of the P.U.P. offices, for the coordinating of the P.U.P.'s work in all areas of Belize, for the servicing of meetings and conventions, and for the proper administration of the P.U.P.'s funds. The Secretary-General shall put his office at the disposal of all authorized units of the P.U.P. The Secretary-General shall present to the National Council a detailed quarterly report on the general affairs of the P.U.P.
5. The P.U.P. treasurer shall officially acknowledge the receipt of any funds, pay debts incurred by the P.U.P., raise funds for the P.U.P., and assume the other normal duties of his office. The P.U.P. Treasurer shall present a quarterly financial report to the National Council.
6. The President of the Belize Youth Movement shall be responsible for liaison between the Belize Youth Movement and the National Council, shall work closely with every unit of the Movement throughout Belize, shall generally ensure active cooperation

of Youth in Party work, and shall submit a quarterly report on the Youth Movement to the National Council.

7. The National Campaign Manager shall be responsible for the overall organization and funding of all election campaigns whether at the national or municipal level.

8. The President of the United Women's Group shall be responsible to the National Council for the organization and supervision of the United Women's Group, shall coordinate the participation of women in Party work, and shall submit a quarterly report on the United Women's Group to the National Council.

Article 10: Regional Caucuses

1. There shall be four regional caucuses as follows:

- a) the Northern Caucus comprising the electoral divisions in the Corozal and Orange Walk Districts;
- b) the Western Caucus comprising the electoral divisions in the Cayo Districts;
- c) the Southern Caucus comprising the electoral divisions in the Stann Creek and Toledo Districts;
- d) the Eastern Caucus comprising the electoral divisions in the Belize District.

2. Each regional caucus shall be comprised of the Chairperson of each constituency branch plus three other representatives from each constituency within the region.

3. Each Regional Caucus shall elect each year from among its members a Chairman and a Secretary and shall meet at least once in every calendar month for the performance of its functions.

4. The functions of the Regional Caucuses shall be to monitor and report to the party Chairman quarterly (in writing) on the activities and on the day-to-day management of all the Constituency Branches and Party Units within its region. Each Caucus shall be entitled to otherwise raise with the Party Chairman any matter of urgency or importance which concerns or relates to the region and to the Units situated therein and request from the National Executive of the P.U.P. such assistance as it deems appropriate.

5. For the purpose of establishing Regional Caucuses the country may be divided from time to time by the National Council.

Article 11: Order of Distinguished Service

1. There shall be a Unit of P.U.P. which shall be known as 'P.U.P. Order of Distinguished Service' comprised of members of the P.U.P. appointed thereto by the National Council.
2. Membership in the Order shall vest in the absolute discretion of the National Council and shall be determined on the basis of outstanding service and contribution to the P.U.P. and to its aims and objectives.
3. Election to the Order shall be for the remainder of the natural life of the member and shall be terminated only by the death or resignation of the member or upon the member ceasing to be a member of the People's United Party.
4. The Order shall elect a Chairperson from among its members who shall hold office for a period of one year and under whose guidance the Order shall regulate its own proceedings.
5. The functions of the Order shall be advisory in nature and shall be limitless in scope and for the purpose of exercising its functions shall have direct access to the Party Leader through its Chairperson.

Article 12: the Belize Youth Movement

1. There shall be a Belize Youth Movement which may comprise the youth members of the P.U.P. and which shall be organized on a constituency basis: Provided that in urban areas with more than one constituency the Belize Youth Movement may function as one unit.
2. The Movement shall promote political, educational, cultural and sporting activities among its members as well as carry out general Party work.
3. The President of the Belize Youth Movement shall be responsible to the National Council for the organization and supervision of the Belize Youth Movement.
4. The Belize Youth Movement shall hold an annual Conference which shall have such powers and duties as provided by Regulations.

Article 13: The United Women's Group

1. There shall be a United Women's Group which shall comprise those female members of the P.U.P. who choose to join it, and which shall be organized on a constituency basis: Provided that in urban areas with more than one constituency, the United Women's Group may function as one unit.
2. All matters relating to the organization and functioning of the United Women's Group shall be governed by Regulations.

Article 14: The Marshalls-Community Service Corps

1. There shall be a Marshalls-Community Service Corps which shall comprise such members of the P.U.P. as choose to join it, and which shall be organized on a constituency basis:
Provided that in urban areas with more than one constituency, the Corps may function as one unit.
2. All matters relating to the organization and functioning of the Corps shall be governed by Regulations.

Article 15: Party Candidates

All candidates for political office shall be elected by a constituency convention in accordance with Regulations Governing Conventions.

Article 16: Party Funds

1. The funds of the P.U.P. shall consist of such dues, levies, subscriptions, donations and other contributions as and in such manner as from time to time shall be determined by the National Council, as well as any funds raised for the P.U.P. in any activity.
2. All monies and property of the P.U.P. shall be vested in the name of the trustees for and on behalf of the P.U.P. appointed by the National Council.
3. Each of the several units of the P.U.P. shall be responsible for such of the funds and property of the P.U.P. as come under its particular control and shall account for such funds and property to the National Executive.
4. All dues and contributions collected by any unit of the P.U.P. must be officially acknowledged.
5. Twenty percent of all dues collected by constituency branches must be submitted to the Party Treasurer.

Article 17: Discipline

1. Any Constituency Branch Executive Committee may, on its own initiative, or on the report of any Party member, inquire into the conduct of any member and suspend, fine, censure or expel such member for conduct which, in the opinion of the Committee, is detrimental to the interests of the P.U.P.

Provided always that the charges against a member must be clearly stated to the member in writing and the written charge must be delivered to the member in person and the member must be given an opportunity to be heard in his or her defense.

2. A Constituency Branch Committee that has taken action under this Article must, within seven days of its determination, report the matter fully to the National Council.
3. Any member who has been disciplined under this Article shall have the right to appeal to the next following quarterly meeting of the National council, unless this does not allow enough time to prepare the appeal, in which case the next following meeting of the National council shall hear and determine the Appeal.

Article 18: By-laws

The National Council shall have the power to make, amend or repeal Party By-laws, Rules, Regulations or Standing Orders for the effective organization and operation of the P.U.P. and its units provided these do not conflict with the Constitution and that they receive the approval of the next National Convention.

Article 19: Reserve Powers and Interpretation

The National Council shall have the power to determine all matters on which this Constitution and any Standing Orders or Rules or Regulations or By-laws made hereunder are silent or from which ambiguity or difficulty of interpretation arises and its decision on any such matter shall be binding subject to ratification by the next National Convention.

Article 20: Amendment of Constitution

This Constitution shall be amended by resolution of at least two thirds of votes of the delegates present at the National Convention or a Special Convention.

Regulations

Regulations Concerning Membership

1. All persons wishing to become members of the People's United Party shall submit a written application to the Secretary of the Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch in which the applicant resides together with one year's dues.
2. The application may be in the following form:

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE PEOPLE'S UNITED PARTY

I, _____, hereby apply for membership in the

People's United Party _____ Constituency Branch.

I was born on the _____, and my address is
_____, and I have resided in this
constituency for the past _____ and my occupation is
_____.

If my application is accepted, I pledge to work for the achievement of the aims and objects of the peaceful, constructive, Belizean revolution, the principles and programmes of the P.U.P., to abide by the Constitution, discipline and decisions of the P.U.P., to vote and encourage others to vote for all candidates of the P.U.P. in all elections, and not to be a member or supporter of any other political party or any organization whose principles, policies or programmes are contrary to or inconsistent with those of the People's United Party.

(Signature of Applicant)

Proposed by: (Member of the P.U.P. in the Constituency Branch).

Seconded by: (Member of the P.U.P. in the Constituency Branch)

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Application reviewed at a meeting on _____ and accepted/rejected.

Signature of Secretary, Executive Committee.

3. On admission after scrutiny by the Executive Committee, each member shall receive a duly authenticated membership card and a certificate of Membership. The membership card shall be signed by the Party Leader.

4. Each member shall pay dues of \$2.00 per calendar year or part thereof and shall become liable to make such additional contributions as may from time to time be required of him by the National Executive.

5. The Executive Committee of each Constituency Branch shall keep a register of all party members in the constituency Branch, arranged in alphabetical order and showing the financial status of each member. Such register shall be open to the scrutiny of each member and of members of the National Council at all reasonable times.

6. At the end of each month the Secretary of each constituency Branch shall send to the Secretary-General a list of all new members and members that have become financial during that month, and at the end of each year shall send a complete list of all financial members. The Secretary -General shall enter these names in a nation-wide Registry kept by him, constituency by constituency. Such Registry shall officially determine the number of financial members in each Constituency Branch at any one time.

7. No person applying for membership, and no member, shall be subject to any discrimination on grounds of race, colour, creed, gender or social status.

8. A person who applies for membership in any Constituency Branch and is rejected may appeal to the National Executive of the P.U.P.

Regulations Governing Conventions.

A. National Conventions.

1. Composition

The National Convention shall be comprised of those members and delegates as set out in Article 7 of the Constitution. Observers attending the National Convention may by special leave of the chairman be allowed to speak, but not to vote.

2. Quorum

One third of those who are eligible to attend and vote shall constitute a quorum.

3. Venue

The National Convention shall, subject to Article 7 of the Constitution, sit at such times and places as may be fixed by the National Council.

4. Credentials

Each member or observer attending the National Convention or a Special Convention shall before the opening session present his duly authenticated credentials to the Credentials Committee appointed by the National Council or other persons authorized to view them and thereafter, whenever so required.

5. Procedure

The P.U.P. Chairman shall take the chair at conventions and in the Chairman's absence such member of the National Executive previously designated by the Chairman. In the absence of such designee, the delegates present shall elect a Chairman from among their number. The Chairman shall have the power to appoint committees for the furtherance of the business of the Convention and these committees may sit during the hours of the Convention if necessary. In any matter on which these Regulations are silent the Chairman shall determine the procedure to be followed, and in the exercise of his discretion he shall be guided by generally accepted rules of Parliamentary practice.

6. Speaking time

No member shall speak on any subject at the convention for more than ten (10) minutes on any occasion provided that:

- a) The mover of a motion shall be allowed to speak for fifteen (15) minutes in introducing his motion, and a further ten (10) minutes in exercising the right of reply.
- b) Any speaker, including the mover of a motion, may by the approval of the convention be given one extension of no more than five (5) minutes on any occasion.
- c) The asking or answering of a question by permission of the Chair or taking of a point of order shall not be considered a speech.

7. Order

The ruling of the Chairman on all matters shall be final. Any person wishing to leave the Convention shall obtain the permission of the Chairman.

8. Agenda

The Convention Agenda shall be issued to each delegate at least seven (7) days before the Convention and shall be strictly adhered to unless a resolution to suspend the Regulations be made and carried by a majority of not less than two-thirds of those voting.

9. Voting

Voting shall be on the basis of one vote per delegate and, except for elections to any office, shall be by show of hands. The Chairman shall have an original and a casting vote.

10. Nomination and Election of Party Officers

1. All members of the National Executive except the Secretary-General shall be elected at a National Convention and shall hold office for two years.
2. Nominations for such officers shall be submitted in writing by a unit of the P.U.P. on or before the 31st October, or such other deadline as established by the National Executive and be accompanied by the written consent of the nominee. Nominations for any office may also be made at the Convention itself.
3. All nominations shall be collated by the Secretary-General who shall ensure that the list of all the nominees is circulated to all delegates attending the Convention one week before the date of the Convention.

4. The National Executive shall appoint a Returning officer and such number of clerks as are necessary to conduct the elections at the Convention.
5. The Returning Officer shall cause to be prominently displayed in the Convention Hall lists of the nominees and of the delegates entitled to vote.
6. A ballot shall be taken in respect of each office for which more than one person is nominated, and the Returning Officer shall cause a Ballot Paper to be issued to each member entitled to vote at the Convention.
7. The Returning officer shall cause to be recorded publicly at the Convention the votes cast in respect of each ballot.

B. *Constituency Conventions*

1. All Financial members of the P.U.P. who are registered in a particular Constituency Branch shall have the right to attend and vote at a constituency Convention.
2. Other Party members may attend as observers, without the right to speak unless specifically permitted by the chairman of the constituency Branch and without the right to vote.
3. Only financial members registered in the Constituency Branch shall have the right to nominate and vote for officers of the Constituency Executive Committee.
4. Elections at Constituency Conventions shall be supervised by the Secretary-General of the P.U.P. or by the Chairman of the P.U.P. or a person nominated by the Chairman in writing. Such Supervisor shall have and exercise all the powers and responsibilities normally invested in returning officers at elections.
5. The Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch shall not issue any membership cards nor accept any dues from any member later than two weeks preceding the date of the Convention.
6. Subject to the regulations herein stated, the Regulations Governing National Conventions shall apply (after necessary adaptations) to Constituency Conventions.

C. *Special conventions To elected Party Candidates for National or Municipal Office*

1. The following regulations shall apply to Special Conventions called to elect candidates to represent the P.U.P. in elections to the House of Representative and to a City Council or Town Council.

2. A Special Convention shall be called by the relevant Constituency Branch to elect a Party candidate or candidates at least one month before the date set for the election to take place.
3. All members of the P.U.P. may attend the Convention.
4. All financial members of the P.U.P. who are registered in the particular Constituency Branch may nominate and vote in the election of a candidate or candidates.
5. The Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch shall not issue any membership cards, nor accept any dues from any member, later than two weeks preceding the date of the Convention.
6. The Secretary-General or a person nominated by the National Executive of the P.U.P. shall be the Returning Officer at all such Special Conventions and shall have and exercise all the powers and responsibilities normally invested in returning officers at elections, including the power to rule on matters on which these regulations are silent in accordance with accepted principles of Parliamentary procedure.
7. In every case in which more persons are nominated than there are places to be filled, an election by secret ballot shall be held.

Regulations of Committees set up by the National Council

1. Unless otherwise stated, each Committee shall comprise not more than twelve members appointed by the National Council.
2. The Chairman of each Committee shall in consultation with the Committee draw up a programme of work for approval within one month of the establishment of the Committee.
3. Standing Committees shall submit quarterly reports of their activities to the National Council, as well as an Annual Report.
4. The terms of reference of each Committee shall be such as are set out in writing from the National Council at the time the Committee is appointed.
5. Members of each Committee shall hold office for one year. Each Committee shall meet as often as is required for the prompt execution of its duties, but not less than once every three months.
6. Fifty percent of members plus one shall constitute a quorum.

Regulations of the Belize Youth Movement

1. Members

The Belize Youth Movement (B.Y.M.) shall comprise the youth members of the P.U.P., organized on a constituency basis.

2. Function

The activities of the Belize Youth Movement shall be aimed at preparing the youth members for working towards the fulfillment of the aims and objects of the P.U.P., as defined in Article 2 of the Constitution and at promoting political, educational, cultural and sporting activities among its members.

3. The National Executive of the Movement shall consist of: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer, a Chief of Staff, and one member from each district of Belize (Total: 12), and shall meet at least once every three months.

4. The National Executive shall be elected at the Annual National Conference of the Movement, which shall comprise:

- a) The National Executive of the Movement;
- b) Three (3) delegates from each Constituency Branch elected at the Annual General meeting of the constituency Youth Movement;
- c) The Youth organizers of the constituency branches (as observers).
- d) The officers of the P.U.P. (as observers).

5. (1) The Annual National Conference of the Belize Youth Movement shall:

- a) Elect the members of the National Executive,
- b) Elect two delegates to the National Convention of the P.U.P.,
- c) Consider reports and resolutions from the respective constituency branches of the B.Y.M., and
- d) Consider the annual report of the National Executive of the B.Y.M. and prepare the Annual Programme of the B.Y.M. for submission to the National Council.

(2) The Annual Conference must be held no later than the end of October in each year.

(3) The Annual Conference shall be supervised by the Party Chairman or some other member of the National Executive designated by the Chairman.

6. The National Executive of the B.Y.M. shall:

- a) convene the Annual Conference,
- b) be responsible for guiding and coordinating the functions of the respective Constituency Chapters,

- c) draw up an annual programme for consideration of the Annual Conference and approval of the National Council, and
 - d) submit a quarterly report of its activities to the National Executive.
- 7. (1) Each Constituency branch of the B.Y.M. shall convene an Annual General Meeting at which it shall elect from its members:
 - a) A Constituency B.Y.M. Executive;
 - b) Three delegates to the Annual Conference of the B.Y.M.
- (2) The meeting shall be supervised by the Chairman of the Constituency Executive committee.
- 8. A Constituency B.Y.M. Executive shall comprise a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer and a Chief of Staff. The Executive shall meet at least once a month, and shall submit a quarterly report to the Executive committee of the Constituency Branch.
- 9. The Executive of the Constituency B.Y.M. shall convene the Annual General Meeting no later than the end of September in each year.

10. Funds

The funds of the B.Y.M. shall be obtained by:

- a) Monthly dues of members;
- b) Fund-raising activities;
- c) Such other means as may be approved by the B.Y.M. Executive.

11. Discipline

The provisions of Article 17 of the constitution of the P.U.P. shall apply after necessary adaptations to members of the B.Y.M. The Chairpersons of the Branches of the B.Y.M. shall be responsible for the discipline of the youth members.

12. Members of the B.Y.M. shall at all times be prepared to perform such activities and functions as they are called upon to perform by the Constituency Executive in furtherance of the P.U.P.'s aims and objects, and in particular to provide security and to appear in force at all public meetings, parades, etc. of the P.U.P., to register voters, to campaign in elections, and to promulgate the policies of the People's United Party.

13. Sections 7, 8, 9, 11, and 12 above shall apply with the necessary adaptations in cases where a Chapter of the B.Y.M. functions as a single unit in an urban area consisting of more than one constituency.

Regulations of the United Women's Group (U.W.G.)

1. Members

The United Women's Group shall comprise those female members of the P.U.P. that choose to join it, organized on a constituency basis:

Provided that in urban areas consisting of more than one constituency, the U.W.G. may function as one unit.

2. Functions

The U.W.G. shall have the following functions:

1. To promote the best interests of the P.U.P.
2. To advocate for the recognition and realization of women's rights generally, and to promote the full participation of women in all phases of national and community life.
3. To hold political, educational and cultural activities with a view to raising the consciousness of Belizean women in the history, politics, culture, economy and society of Belize.
4. To work as a body for the achievement of the aims of the People's United Party and to carry out membership drives, voter registration, and election campaigns in cooperation with the Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch.
5. To hold social or other functions in order to raise funds for the P.U.P. and to place such funds at the disposal of the Constituency Branch.
6. To do all such other things as are required of it by the Constituency Branch or by National Executive for the benefit of the People's United Party, including attendance as a group at meetings, parades, etc. of the People's United Party.
7. To organize among themselves, and under special rules formulated by the U.W.G. and ratified by National Council, any scheme for the benefit of members.

- (3) The National Executive of the U.W.G. shall consist of: a President, a Vice President, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer and one member from each district of Belize (Total: 11) and shall meet at least once every three months.

- (4) The National Executive shall be elected at an Annual National Conference of the U.W.G. which shall comprise:
- a) The National Executive of the U.W.G.,
 - b) Three (3) delegates from each Constituency U.W.G. elected at the Annual General Meeting of the Constituency U.W.G.,
 - c) The officers of the P.U.P. (as observers).
5. (1) The Annual National Conference of the U.W.G. shall:
- a) Elect the members of the National Executive,
 - b) Elect two delegates to the National Convention of the P.U.P.,
 - c) Consider reports and resolutions from the respective constituency branches of the U.W.G., and
 - d) Consider the annual report of the National Executive of the U.W.G. and prepare the annual Programme of the U.W.G. for submission to the National Council.
- (2) The annual Conference must be held no later than the end of October in each year.
- (3) The Conference must be supervised by an officer of the National Executive.
6. The National Executive of the U.W.G. shall:
- a) Convene the annual Conference,
 - b) Be responsible for guiding and coordinating the functions of the respective constituency groups,
 - c) Draw up an annual programme for consideration of the Annual conference and the approval of the National Council, and
 - d) Submit a quarterly report of its activities to the National Executive.
7. Each Constituency U.W.G. shall convene an Annual Meeting at which it shall elect from its members:
- a) a Constituency U.W.G. Executive,
 - b) three delegates to the Annual conference of the U.W.G.,

- c) the meeting shall be supervised by an officer of the Constituency Committee.
8. A Constituency U.W.G. Executive shall comprise a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer, and two other members. The Executive shall meet at least once a month, and shall submit a quarterly report of its activities to the Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch.
9. The Executive of the Constituency U.W.G. shall convene the Annual General Meeting no later than the end of September in each year.
10. **Funds**
- (1). The funds of the U.W.G. shall be obtained by:
- (a) Monthly dues of members.
 - (b) Fund raising activities.
 - (c) Such other means as may be approved by the U.W.G's Executive.
- (2) General funds of the U.W.G. shall be kept separate from any other funds collected from members for a special purpose connected with special benefits to members.
11. No members of the U.W.G. shall be obliged to become a party to any special benefit fund created by the U.W.G., but participation in such fund shall be purely voluntary.

12. Discipline

The Provision of Article 17 of the Constitution of the People's United Party shall apply after necessary adaptations to members of the U.W.G. Any matter of the discipline which the U.W.G. Executive is unable to resolve shall be referred to the Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch for its decision.

13. Sections 4, 6,7,8,9, and 12 above shall apply with the necessary adaptations in cases where a branch of the U.W.G. functions as a single unit in an urban area consisting of more than one constituency.

Regulations of the Marshalls-Community Service Corps (MCSC)

1. Members

The MCSC shall comprise such adult members of the People's United Party as choose to join it.

2. Organization

- (1) The MCSC shall be organized and function on the basis of the division of the country into Regional Caucuses with special regard being paid to the need to ensure adequate rural and urban memberships.

3. Functions

The MCSC shall perform the following functions:

1. To promote all the best interests of the People's United Party;
2. To carry out work, projects, programmes and services to aid and improve communities in need through voluntary community service;
3. To provide and render aid and assistance to people and communities in distress or during emergency situations such as fires, floods and hurricanes;
4. To hold meetings and seminars in order to raise the political consciousness of its members and increase their understanding and support of the principles, policies and programmes of the P.U.P.
5. To work for the strengthening of the P.U.P. and in particular to take active part in membership drives, voter registration and election campaigns;
6. To attend all meetings, parades and functions of the P.U.P., enforce order and discipline and provide security for the officers and members of the P.U.P.
7. To provide by special arrangements such benefits as may be decided upon for members of the MCSC, provided that no member shall be obliged to become a party to such a scheme, but participation in such scheme shall be purely voluntary.

4. National Executive

The National Executive of the MCSC shall consist of a Chairman, a Vice-Chairman, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a treasurer and one member from each regional caucus of Belize (Total: 9), and shall meet at least once every three months.

5. The Annual Conference

- (1) There shall be Annual conference of the MCSC which shall comprise:
 - (a) The National Executive of the MCSC.
 - (b) Three (3) delegates from each Regional Caucus MCSC elected at the Annual Meeting of the Regional Caucus MCSC.
 - (c) The members of the National Executive of the P.U.P. (as observers)
- (2) The Annual Conference of the MCSC shall:
 - (a) elect the members of the National Executive,
 - (b) elect two delegates to the National Convention of the P.U.P.,
 - (c) consider reports and resolutions from the respective Regional

Caucus branches of the MCSC, and

- (d) consider the annual report of the National Executive of the MCSC and prepare the Annual Programme of the MCSC for Submission to National Council.
- (3) The Annual Conference must be held no later than the end of October in each year.
- (4) The Conference shall be supervised by a member of the National Executive of the P.U.P.

6. The National Executive of the MCSC shall:

- a) Convene the Annual Conference,
- b) Be responsible for guiding and coordinating the functions of the various MCSC branches,
- c) Draw up an annual programme for consideration of the Annual Conference and the approval of the National Council, and
- d) Submit a quarterly report of its activities to the National Executive.

7. Annual General Meetings

(1) Each Regional Caucus Branch of the MCSC shall convene an Annual General Meeting at which it shall elect from its members:

- a. a Regional MCSC Executive,
- b. three (3) delegates to the Annual Conference of the MCSC.

(2) The meeting shall be supervised by a member of Regional Caucus.

8. A Regional Caucus Executive shall comprise: a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, an Assistant Secretary, a Treasurer, and two other members. The Executive shall meet at least once a month, and shall submit a quarterly report to the Regional Caucus.

9. The Executive of the Regional Caucus MCSC shall convene the Annual General Meeting no later than the end of September in each year.

10. (1) The Annual General Meeting shall be supervised by a member of the National Executive of the P.U.P.; and

(2) the quarterly report shall be submitted to the National Executive of the P.U.P.

10. Funds

(1) The funds of the MCSC shall be obtained by:

- (a) monthly dues of members,
- (b) fund-raising activities,
- (c) such other means as may be approved by the MCSC Executive.

(2) (a) All monies forming part of any provident fund scheme shall be kept separate from any other funds of the MCSC, and shall be administered independently.

(b) Members of the MCSC who are contributors to such provident fund shall yearly elect two persons as trustees, charged with the custody and administration of the fund under any special rules agreed to by the said contributors.

12. Discipline

(1) The provisions of Article 17 of the Constitution of the People's United Party shall apply after necessary adaptations to members of the MCSC.

(2) In any case where a disciplinary problem cannot be satisfactorily resolved by a MCSC Executive it shall be referred to Regional Caucus of the Region of the P.U.P. for its decision.

13. An Annual Meeting, in respect of branches, and an Annual conference, in respect of the national organization, shall have the power to appoint patrons and honorary members of the MCSC.

Financial Regulations

A. Constituency Branch

1. It shall be the duty of the Constituency Secretary to collect dues from all members of the P.U.P. in the Constituency.

2. The Secretary shall give a receipt for all monies paid to the Secretary in such manner as may be prescribed and shall thereafter make an entry of the monies so received in the prescribed records.

3. The Secretary shall hand over all monies received to the Treasurer together with detailed statement of the heads under which money was received and the names of the persons who have paid.

4. The Treasurer shall keep a record of all monies received and paid out, and shall not pay out any money save as specifically or generally approved by the Constituency

Executive and only on the written requisition of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman and Secretary.

5. The Treasurer shall at the end of each quarter prepare a statement of account of the monies received and paid out and shall submit the same together with such monies as are in the Treasurer's possession and due to be paid to Central Office, to the Secretary for the consideration of the Executive Committee of the Constituency Branch and transmission to the National Executive.

6. The Constituency Executive shall be responsible for the payment of the Constituency Levy imposed by the National Executive and the payment of such Constituency Levies shall constitute and be a first charge on the funds raised by the Constituency Executive.

7. The Constituency Executive shall derive funds for the payment of Constituency Levy from the following sources.

1. From the voluntary contributions made by party members residing in the Constituency;
2. From the 20% allocation of yearly dues paid by members; and
3. From fund-raising activities sponsored by the Constituency Executive.

B. Central Office

1. All monies received at the P.U.P. Secretariat shall be duly brought into account and shall as soon as practicable be deposited to the credit of the appropriate fund with the P.U.P.'s bankers.

2. Receipts shall be issued for all such sums received.

3. There shall be kept at the P.U.P. Secretariat the following records and books of account:

1. A register showing daily cash receipts and payments.
2. Duplicate receipt books.
3. Journal.
4. Credit – purchase book.
5. Records of constituency dues.
6. Records of contributions from members of the P.U.P. in the National Assembly, City Council, or other public office.

7. General ledger.
 8. A register of party membership cards numbered in consecutive order.
 9. Such other books as may be duly required.
4. The Secretary-General shall furnish to the Treasurer a monthly statement of the P.U.P.'s finance.
 5. No payments shall be made and no expenditure shall be incurred except with the prior general or specific approval of the Treasurer.
 6. The Treasurer shall submit a Statement of Account once every quarter for the consideration of the National Executive and National Council.
 7. (1) The books of the P.U.P. shall be audited once each year by auditors who are not officers of the P.U.P. but must be members of the P.U.P.

(2) Two auditors shall be nominated by the National Executive with the approval of the National Council.